

deeply hooked, enduring prolonged battles, or rough handling. Because of this, and because of low steelhead numbers, we encourage anglers to practice good catch-and-release techniques (as outlined on page 36) when fishing for wild steelhead.

RAINBOW TROUT—hard-fighting fish which are highly prized by anglers. They are known for a prominent red stripe on the side, but their overall coloration varies widely and reflects habitat or degree of maturity.

Rainbow trout are found in area waters both as freshwater resident and as sea-run races. Sea-run rainbows are discussed above, under “steelhead.”

Rainbow trout up to 18 inches long inhabit some area streams and lakes. ADF&G stocked 37 area lakes with rainbows in the 1960s and 1970s. They can be caught year-round, but fishing is best in spring and early summer—and again in late fall.

Rainbows feed voraciously on aquatic insects and their larvae, small fish, eggs, and crustaceans. Effective offerings therefore include flies, spinners, spoons, and other artificials which imitate their preferred foods. Rainbows can be caught on flyfishing, spinning, or spincasting gear. Be sure that you check sport fishing regulations for area gear restrictions and/or rainbow trout bag limits.

CUTTHROAT TROUT—a popular native fish in area waters. ADF&G has documented 70 resident and 15 anadromous cutthroat populations here. Like rainbows, cutthroat occur both as sea-run and resident in streams and lakes, inhabiting almost any freshwater habitat—including beaver ponds and backwater sloughs.

Trophy fish over 3 pounds have been caught in some freshwater systems, but area lakes and streams do not provide very productive habitat, and cutthroat are slow-growing with low reproductive rates. These factors combine to make them susceptible to overharvest. To conserve stocks, catch-and-release fishing is therefore encouraged.

Cutthroat will strike various lures or flies. Sea-run cutthroat are usually caught in area streams during fall and late spring. Resident “cutts” often hold near inlet stream mouths and along lake margins, especially near vegetation.

Trolling with artificial lures produces nice fish in some lakes during summer, when fish are deeper. There are often excellent catch rates in spring, when salmon fry emerge from stream gravels. Be sure to check area regulations for existing bag limits and gear restrictions.

DOLLY VARDEN CHAR—the only species of char native to area waters, Dolly Varden are known for following adult salmon upstream and feeding on eggs left by ripe female salmon. ‘Dollies’ are

common both as sea-run and freshwater residents in area streams and lakes. They are tasty when smoked or otherwise prepared like trout.

Fishing is usually good from late spring to early fall. Flies and artificials will catch ‘Dollies’ in lakes and streams. Casting or trolling various spoons or spinners along marine shorelines and stream mouths also produces fish.

ARCTIC GRAYLING—introduced into nine Ketchikan lakes in the 1960s and 1970s, grayling are distinguished from trout and char by a prominent dorsal fin. Information on the status of these populations is not presently available.

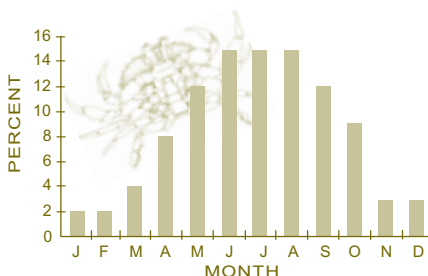
Grayling are sensitive to pollution and prefer cold, clear streams. Their growth rate is slow: most are only 8–12 inches long. Their diet is mainly insects, so you will find flyfishing most effective. Small spinners or spoons will also take grayling.

BROOK TROUT—not native to the area, brook trout were introduced in the 1930s. Eight Ketchikan area lakes contain brook trout. We lack current population statistics for this species of char, but anglers are encouraged to fish for this species. Use small spinners or flies to catch brook trout. The best time to fish for brook trout is midsummer through early fall.

Shellfish



Dungeness crab and shrimp are popular targets, especially in summer. Crab and shrimp are caught in traps, pots, or ring nets baited with fish heads, tails, and viscera.



Seasonal availability of Dungeness crab and shrimp in Ketchikan area salt waters.

WARNING!

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation recommends no harvest of mussels, clams, scallops, and other filter-feeding bivalves for human consumption. Those shellfish can transmit paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP), a potentially lethal neurotoxin, to humans. Direct additional questions to:

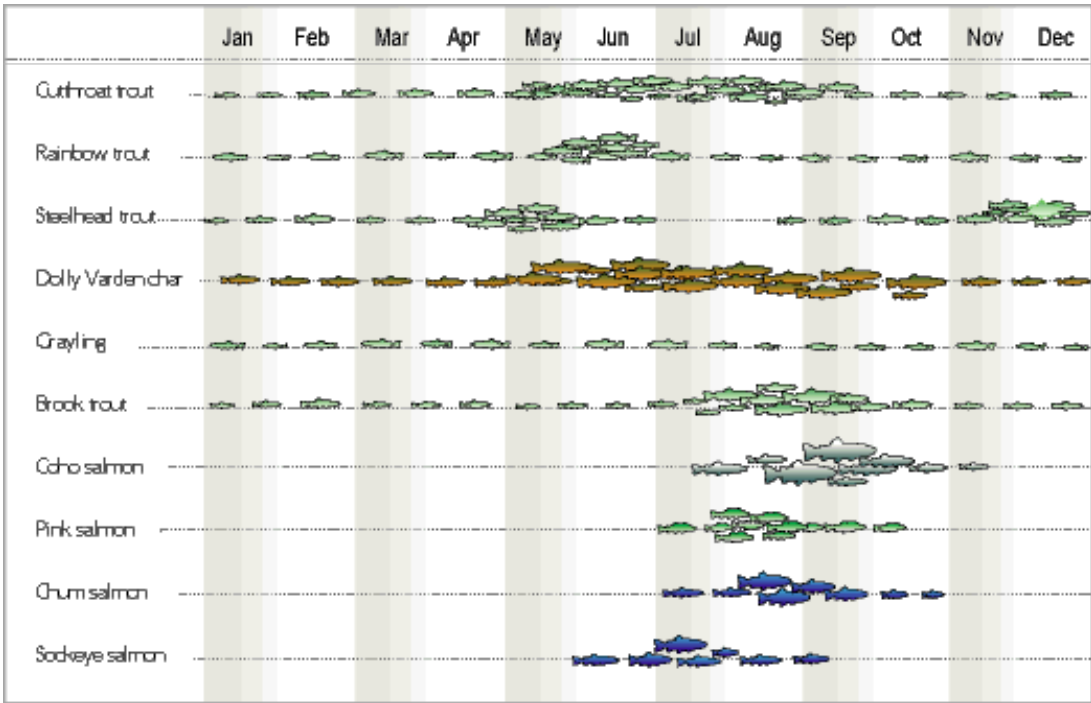
ALASKA DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION
Division of Environmental Health

3601 C Street, Suite 1324
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 563-0318

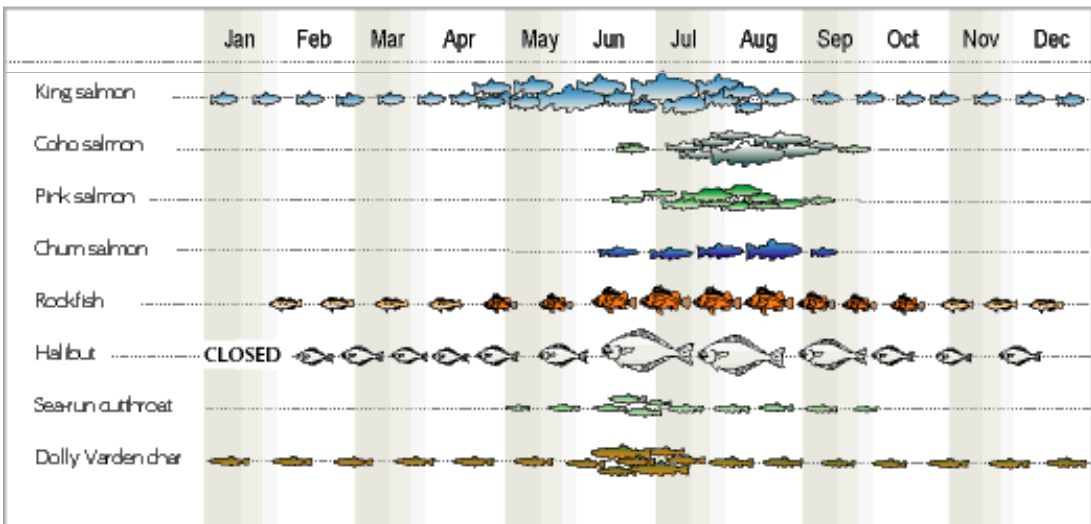
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501-2617
(907) 269-7640

Fish TIMING CALENDAR

Fresh water

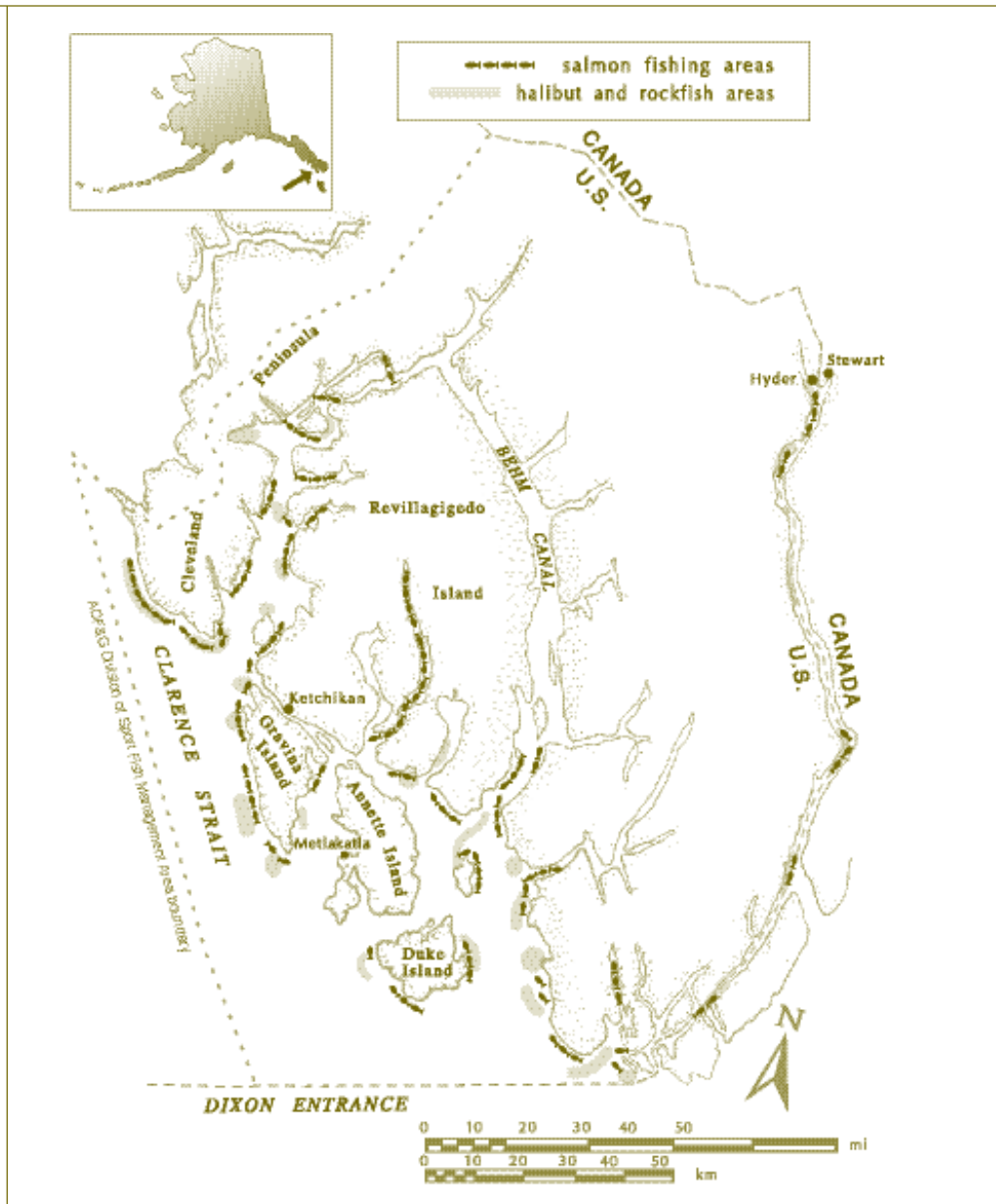


Salt water



Fish symbols indicate the beginning, peak, and end of adult presence of each species. Larger symbols, or concentrations of symbols, represent peak fishing times.

MAP 3. SALMON AND BOTTOMFISH sport fishing spots in the *Ketchikan* area



Fishing spots . . .

in Ketchikan salt waters

The more productive marine areas for salmon and bottomfish in the Ketchikan Management Area are shown on Map 3 (at left), and Map 4 (page 27) shows the main saltwater fishing spots close to Ketchikan. Coastal waters are most effectively fished by boat. Your boat should be at least 14 feet and seaworthy, with full Coast Guard-required equipment on board (see *Alaska Boating Safety*, on page 38). Ketchikan, Hyder, and Metlakatla have public boat launches.

Roadside saltwater sport fishing is available for king salmon, pink and coho salmon, rockfish, halibut, shellfish, cutthroat trout, and Dolly Varden.

Several sport fishing techniques are productive: the common ones are trolling, mooching, bottomfishing, flyfishing, and spincasting.

TROLLING—the traditional method for catching salmon. Trolling involves towing a flasher or dodger (optional) trailed by bait or artificial lure behind the boat. Many prefer to troll parallel and close to shoreline.

Trolling with downriggers is effective in deeper waters, especially for king salmon. It is not unusual to catch

halibut when using downriggers. As a fish strikes, the line is released from the downrigger weight, and a direct battle begins with the fish. The weight release allows an angler to use a more limber rod and lighter line.

Use a 6-ft to 8-ft trolling rod with medium to heavy action, and a conventional reel filled with at least 200 yd of 20- to 40-lb-test line. Depending on conditions, use 2-oz. to 24-oz. lead weights.

Herring is the bait of choice, fished whole with a slight bend, in cut-plugs or in filleted strips, on a single or tandem hook (size 2/0 to 5/0) rig with a 2- to 6-ft leader. Effective artificial lures include spoons or plugs which imitate baitfish.

MOOCHING—a slower, more vertical method of fishing a wide range of depths from a boat. ‘Moochers’ usually target king or coho salmon, but they can also catch pink salmon, halibut, and rockfish. Mooching techniques vary widely, from anchoring in place or drifting to slow trolling.

. . . *cont'd on page 28*

Map key	Location	Species available			Distance from Ketchikan	Access
		Salmon	Bottomfish	Shellfish		
1	Ship Island	KS, SS, PS, CS	H		28 mi. NW	boat
2	Caamano Point	KS, SS, PS, CS	RF, H, L		19 mi. NW	boat
3	Helm Bay	KS, SS, PS, RS	H	D	26 mi. NW	boat
4	Yes Bay	RS, KS, CS, SS, PS	H	D	50 mi. N	boat
5	Hassler Island	KS, SS, PS			48 mi. N	boat
6	Bell Island	KS, PS, SS	H	D, S	55 mi. N	boat
7	Neets Bay	KS, CS, SS, PS	H	D, S	36 mi. N	boat
8	Indian Point	KS, PS, SS, CS			26 mi. N	boat
9	Naha Bay	RS, PS, SS	H	D	25 mi. N	boat
10	Grant Island	KS, PS, SS	H		20 mi. N	boat
11	Clover Passage	KS, PS, SS	RF, H	D, S	16 mi. N	boat/road
12	Survey Point	KS, PS, SS			14 mi. N	boat
13	Guard Islands	KS, PS, SS	H		12 mi. NW	boat
14	Vallenar Point	KS, PS, SS	RF, H		10 mi. NW	boat
15	Vallenar Bay	PS, SS	RF, H	D	13 mi. NW	boat
16	South Vallenar	KS, SS, PS	RF, H		14 mi. NW	boat
17	Grant Cove	KS, PS, SS	H		16 mi. NW	boat
18	Nelson Cove	KS, PS, SS	H	D	24 mi. SW	boat
19	Bronaugh Islands	KS, PS, SS	L, H	D, S	20 mi. SW	boat
20	Bostwick Inlet	SS, PS	H	D	16 mi. SW	boat
21	Stomach Bay	SS, KS		D	15 mi. SW	boat
22	Blank Inlet	SS, KS, PS	RF, H, L	D, S	13 mi. SW	boat
23	Tongass Narrows	SS, PS, KS	H		10 mi. long-Ketchikan midway	
24	Mountain Point	KS, PS, SS			7 mi. SE	boat/road
25	Herring Bay	KS, PS, SS	H	D	9 mi. SE	boat/road
26	California Head	KS, PS, SS	H		10 mi. SE	boat
27	Carroll Inlet	KS, CS, RS, SS, PS	H	D, S	12 mi. SE	boat
28	Bold Island	SS, PS	H		10 mi. SE	boat
29	Thorne Arm	PS, RS, SS	RF, H	D, S	15 mi. SE	boat
30	Lucky Cove	KS, RS, SS, PS			18 mi. SE	boat
31	Point Alava	KS, SS, PS	H		20 mi. SE	boat
32	Point Sykes	KS, PS, SS	H		22 Mi. SE	boat
33	Boca de Quadra	KS, PS, CS, SS, RS	H, RF	D, S	30 mi. SE	boat
34	Mary Island	KS, PS, SS	RF, H	D	26 mi. SE	boat
35	Foggy Bay	KS, PS, CS, SS, RS	RF, H, L	D, S	40 mi. SE	boat
36	Duke Island	KS, PS, SS	RF, H, L	D	40 mi. SE	boat
37	Cape Fox	KS, RS, PS, SS, CS	H		52 mi. SE	boat
38	Nakat Inlet	SS, RS, PS, CS	H, RF	D, S	60 mi. SE	boat
39	Lower Portland Canal	KS, PS, RS, SS, CS	RF, H, L	D, K, S	65 mi. SE	boat
40	Upper Portland Canal	KS, CS, SS, PS	H, RF	D, T, K, S	180 mi. ESE	boat

MAP 4. SALTWATER SPORT FISHING LOCATIONS in the *Ketchikan* area



CHECK LOCALLY FOR SPECIAL REGULATIONS

More flexible, 7¹/₂-ft to 10-ft rods are used, with conventional or spinning reels and 15- to 30-lb-test monofilament. Whole, cut-plug, or strips of herring fished below a 2- to 16-oz. weight are the most common set-ups. Vertical jigging with various metal jigs or spoons is also popular.

BOTTOMFISHING—effective for catching halibut, rockfish, lingcod, or other bottom-dwelling fishes below a drifting or anchored boat. Use a 5-ft to 8-ft rod with heavy action, and a conventional reel with 40- to 100-lb-test monofilament or braided dacron line. This heavier gear gives added strength to free snagged terminal tackle and to heft large fish from a rocky bottom.

Terminal baitfishing tackle consists of heavy monofilament or wire leader, single or tandem ‘J’ (standard) or circle hooks from 3/0 to 10/0, and sliding or fixed weights from 8 to 24 oz. Herring, octopus, squid, or salmon heads or tails can be used for bait. Artificial lures like spoons, lead-head or chrome jigs with or without rubber tails, skirts, or bait, are also effective.

FLYFISHING—productive for near-surface feeding fish such as coho and pink salmon or certain rockfish species. Streamers and other fly patterns which imitate baitfish may be effectively presented with high density, shooting-head, sink-tip or standard sinking lines.

Use a high-capacity fly reel with at least 100 yd of backing, matched on an 8-ft to 10-ft fly rod (7-weight or heavier).

SPIN OR BAITCASTING—used by saltwater anglers from boat or shoreline to catch salmon, sea-run trout, rockfish, or Dolly Varden.

This gear is particularly effective when fish are seen at the surface or in shallow nearshore waters. Tackle size depends on the size of fish pursued: 7-ft to 9-ft rods with matched spinning or baitcasting reels filled with 10- to 20-lb-test monofilament line perform well.

Various spoons, spinners, small metal jigs, and herring or other bait will catch fish.



Sunshine and calm water helps create enjoyable sport fishing in Southeast Alaska.

... in *fresh waters* along the *Ketchikan* roadside

*T*he public road system around Ketchikan offers fairly good access to roadside sport fishing for salmon, trout, and char. Small to medium streams and lakes lie within 5 minutes' walk from a local road, and other streams and lake systems are within a 1- to 3-hour walk. Maps 5 and 6 show some of the better roadside fishing spots around Ketchikan and Hyder.

Salmon and steelhead are caught mainly in streams. Sea-run and resident rainbows, cutthroat, and Dolly Varden are caught in streams and lakes.

Fishing methods vary according to species and type of waterway. Drift fishing, flyfishing, and spinning or spincasting are used to fish streams (hip boots or chest waders are essential for crossing and effectively covering most streams). Skiffs, canoes, or inflatable rafts are used to flyfish, troll, and spin or spincast on lakes. Ice fishing is sometimes done in winter. Shoreline fishing along lakeshores can also be productive, if access is not impeded by shallow lake margins, swampy muskegs, or dense vegetation.

DRIFT FISHING—the most popular method used for catching steelhead and salmon, as well as other trout and

Dollies, in area streams. A promising stretch of water often flows into or out of a pool or undercut streambank—areas that frequently hold fish.

Depending on what you are fishing for, choose a 6- to 9-ft rod with light to medium action. A matching spinning or baitcasting reel with 4- to 15-lb-test monofilament line is effective. Egg imitations, small plugs, spoons, and spinners will yield good results.

A proper drift is achieved when the cast is quartered upstream and the weight touches stream bottom regularly every 1 to 3 seconds. A strike can actually be felt, or is indicated when the line stops. Water conditions dictate the weight needed—too much weight causes snags, too little creates an unnatural drift. Split-shot, pencil lead, or $\frac{1}{16}$ - to $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. lures provide ample weight. Some anglers fish their lure at depths of 1 to 4 feet, with a bobber or other float.

FLYFISHING—effective in stream riffles, runs, and pools for all freshwater game fish in the area, depending on pattern used, species targeted, and conditions. For steelhead and salmon, 7- to 9-weight fly rods and corresponding

... *cont'd on page 32*

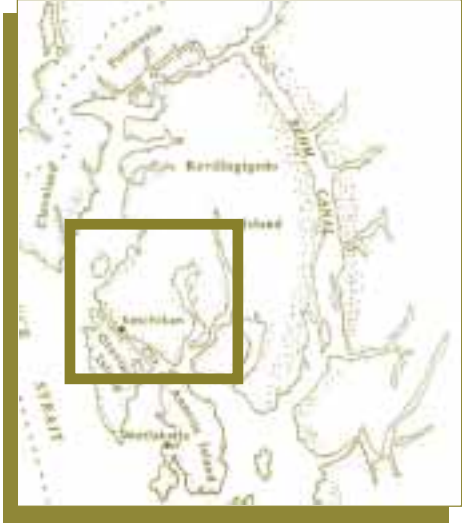
Map key	Location	Species available	Distance from Ketchikan
<i>Ketchikan area</i>			
1	Settlers Cove (Lunch Cr.)	PS, DV, CT	18 mi N on Tongass Hwy. State park location.
2	Harriet Hunt Lake	RT, DV	18 mi NNW at end of Ward Creek logging spur. Primitive boat launch.
3	White River	PS, SH, SS, CS, DV, CT, RT	20 mi NNW off Ward Creek logging spur. On private land— <i>check locally for access permission from Cape Fox Corporation.</i>
4	Second Waterfall	RT	16 mi N on Tongass Hwy; 4-mi hike on primitive trail
5	Talbot Lake	DV, RT, CT, BT	13 mi NNW on Ward Creek logging spur. Trailhead at Connell Lake; 1½-mi hike.
6	Connell Lake	CT, DV, RT, BT	11 mi N on Ward Creek logging spur. Primitive boat launch.
7	Ward Creek	PS, SH, RS, SS, DV, CT	8 mi N on logging spur off N.Tongass and Lake Hwy; 3 USFS campgrounds and a picnic area on Ward Lake.
8	Ward Cove	PS, SH, RS, SS, DV, CT	6 mi N on Tongass Hwy.
9	Perseverance Lake	BT, RT	8 mi N on Ward Creek logging spur. Trailhead at Ward Lake; 1½-mi hike.
10	Carlanna Lake	RT, DV	At west end of Ketchikan; ½-mi trail hike.
11	Ketchikan Creek	SS, SH, KS, PS, DV, CT	At south end of Ketchikan. Check for special sport fishing regulations.
12	Thomas Basin	KS, PS, DV, SS, SH, CT	At south end of Ketchikan. Check for special sport fishing regulations.
13	Mountain Point	SS, KS, PS, RF, H	7 mi S on Tongass Hwy. Shore angling and boat launch.
14	Herring Cove	KS, SS, PS, DV, D	9 mi S of Ketchikan on Tongass Highway. Shore angling. Check each year for special regulations.
15	Whitman Lake	BT, DV	10 mi SE off Tongass Hwy; 3-mi hike, primitive trail.
16	Silvis Lakes	RT	16 mi SE off Tongass Hwy; 3-mi hike, primitive road.
17	Beaver Falls	RS, SS, PS, DV	16 mi SE on Tongass Highway.
<i>Hyder area (map on page 32)</i>			
18	Marx Creek	CS, DV, PS, SS	90 mi E, 8 mi up the Salmon River Rd from Hyder. Check for special regulations.
19	Fish Creek	CS, SS, PS, DV	90 mi E, 7 mi up the Salmon River Rd from Hyder. Check for special regulations.
20	Salmon River	DV, PS, CS, SS	90 mi E, just outside of Hyder.
<div> <div> CS = chum salmon ♦ KS = king salmon PS = pink salmon RS = sockeye salmon SS = silver salmon </div> <div> BT = brook trout CT = cutthroat trout RT = rainbow trout SH = steelhead trout </div> <div> DV = Dolly Varden H = halibut RF = rockfish D = Dungeness crab </div> </div>			

♦ KING SALMON FISHING IN FRESH WATER IS CLOSED UNLESS OPENED BY EMERGENCY ORDER!

MAP 5. ROADSIDE SPORT FISHING LOCATIONS in the *Ketchikan* area



CHECK
LOCALLY FOR
SPECIAL
REGULATIONS



MAP 6. ROADSIDE FISHING LOCATIONS
in the *Hyder, Alaska* area



ICE FISHING—a limited winter pastime for some brave anglers. Trout and Dolly Varden can be found in several roadside lakes and streams during winter, but *exercise extreme caution* when venturing onto the ice. During mild winters, the ice cover may be too thin for safe ice fishing.

lines on reels with a good drag system are recommended. For other species, 3- to 7-weight rods work well.

Most area streams are small and have vegetated banks, so backcasts may be restricted—roll casts will improve catch rates and reduce snags.

Lake margins near downed trees or vegetative cover or near inlet stream mouths are especially favorable for trout and Dollys.

Egg and shrimp imitations are effective lures for steelhead, salmon, other trout, and Dolly Varden. Dry

flies that imitate adult mosquitos, blackflies, mayflies, or stoneflies are effective lures for trout and Dolly Varden during hatches in late spring and summer. Sinking patterns which imitate juvenile salmon, sculpin, and insect larvae also catch fish on a regular basis.

SPINNING AND SPINCASTING—frequently used technique with a variety of spinners and spoons to catch fish in fresh water. The same tackle is used for spinning and spincasting as for drift fishing.



... in Ketchikan area

remote lakes and streams

Remote lakes and streams are numerous and especially inviting to anglers seeking solitude in a pristine nature setting. Some of the larger and better fish-producing remote waters are shown on Map 7 (page 35), and the table on page 34 lists species and access.

Remote waters are reached by floatplane, boat, or hiking trails. Remote areas are not for all anglers, as no public facilities or services exist near most of them. Some of the more popular remote systems, however, do have Forest Service cabins close by (see Map 2, on page 15).

The same salmonids which inhabit roadside waters are also found in remote systems. Arctic grayling were stocked in nine remote lakes in the 1960s and again in 1972. Brook trout were stocked in six lakes in the '40s.

The same methods are used as in freshwater roadside fishing. The main difference between the two is the more thoughtful planning and choice of equipment. Small inflatable rafts or float tubes may be the only practical fishing vessel for some fly-in lakes. Choose compact equipment such as pack-rods and backpacks

(floatplane pilots prefer internal frame or soft packs).

And, finally, for a safe, successful sport fishing trip in a remote area:

- make sure someone responsible (and not accompanying you) knows your schedule and means of travel
- if you hire a charter flight or other transport, be sure the pilot knows when and where to pick you up
- take along 4 days' worth of extra food, and a gun or other means of obtaining food if necessary
- carry a good supply of waterproof matches and additional fire starter
- carry a complete First Aid kit, along with flares, mirror, or other visual signal devices
- be wary of *and avoid all contact with* black bears, which you may encounter as they travel and feed along area streams
- don't drink water until it has been boiled for a least ten minutes
- don't travel alone.

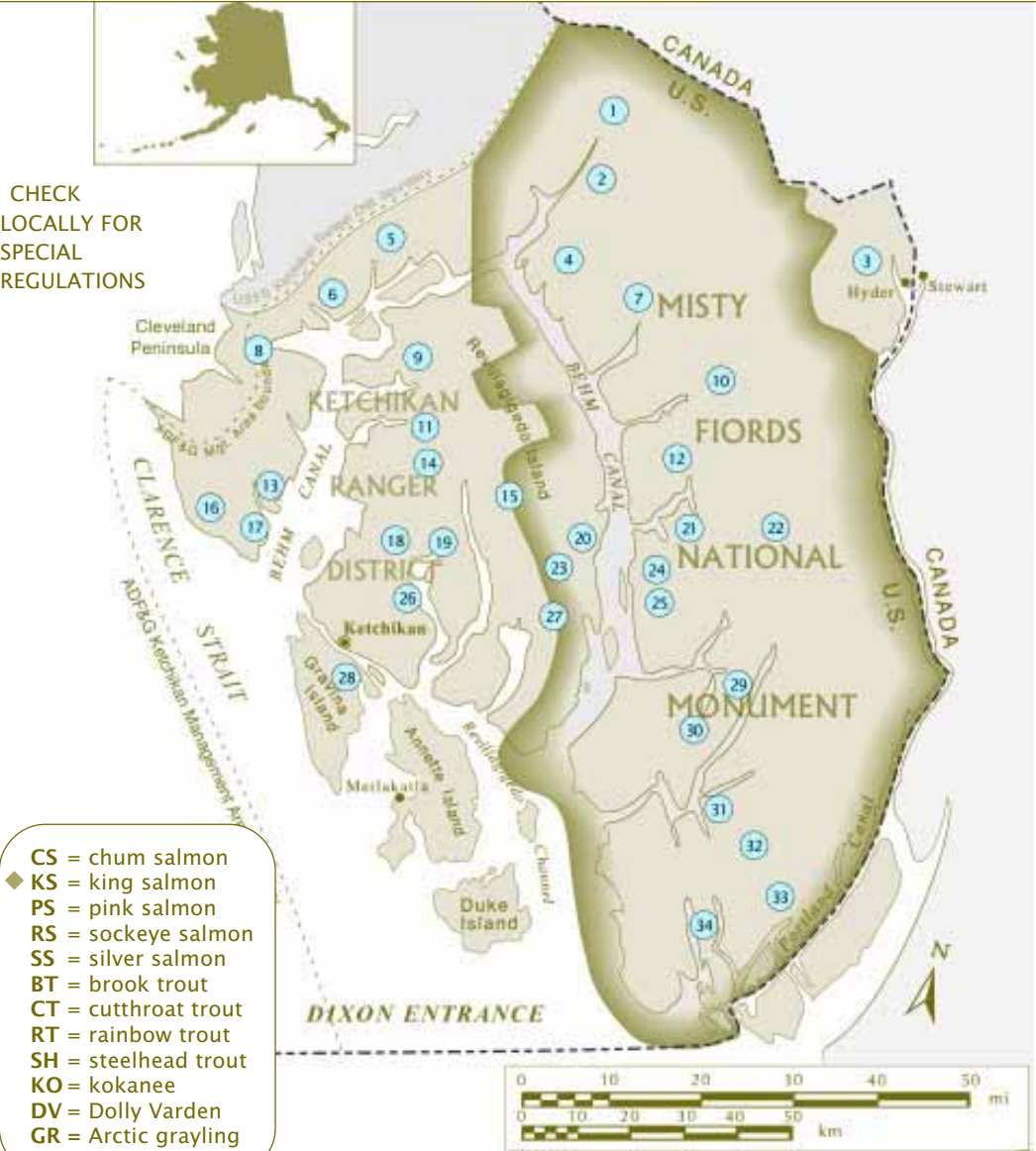
remote lake and stream map on page 35 ►

Remote Lake and Stream

SPORT FISHING LOCATIONS in the *Ketchikan* area

Map key	Location	Species available	Access (all distances are from Ketchikan)
1	Gene's Lake	SS, RS, CS, DV, PS, (KS), CT, SH	62 mi N by plane or river boat up Unuk River. ☛ Closed to king salmon fishing.
2	Lake Creek	SS, PS, CS, RS, (KS), CT, DV, SH	63 mi N of Ketchikan on Unuk River by floatplane. ☛ Closed to king salmon fishing.
3	Texas Lake	DV, BT, SS	60 mi NE by floatplane. Near Hyder.
4	Sak's Lake	CT, DV	50 mi NE by floatplane or boat + 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -mi hike.
5	Reflection Lake	CT, SH, KO, SS, PS, CS	50 mi N by floatplane or boat + 2-mi hike.
6	Lake McDonald	CT, SH, DV, RS, PS, SS, CS, RT	43 mi N by floatplane or boat + 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -mi hike (area includes Wolverine and Hatchery creeks)
7	LeDuc River	RT	50 mi NE by floatplane.
8	Wasta Lake	CT, DV, SH, PS, CS, SS, RS, RT	45 mi N by floatplane only.
9	Orchard Lake	CT, KO	32 mi N by floatplane or boat + $\frac{3}{8}$ -mi hike.
10	Walker Lake	RT	50 mi NE by floatplane only.
11	Margaret Lake	CT, DV, PS, SH, SS, RS	24 mi N by floatplane or boat + 1-mi trail hike.
12	Manzoni Lake system	GR	40 mi NE by floatplane only.
13	Helm Lake	CT, SH, DV, RS, PS, SS, CS	23 mi NW by floatplane or boat + 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -mi hike.
14	Naha River	CT, DV, SH, RS, PS, CS, SS, GR	20 mi N by plane or boat. (This area includes Roosevelt Lagoon and Emma, Jordan, Heckman, Patching, Chamberlain, Snow and Orton lakes.)
15	Swan Lake	DV, BT, KO	21 mi SE by floatplane or boat + 1-mi hike.
16	Rainbow Lake	RT	28 mi NW by floatplane or boat + 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -mi hike.
17	Smugglers Cove Lakes	DV, RT, CT, KO	29 mi NW by floatplane or boat + 1-mi hike.
18	Leask Lakes (1 & 2)	CT, DV, SS, RS, SH	20 mi NE by floatplane or boat + 3-mi hike.
19	Salt Chuck Lake	CT, SS, DV, PS, RS	15 mi SE by floatplane or boat + 2-mi hike.
20	Manzanita Lake	CT, BT, DV, KO	25 mi SE by floatplane or boat + 3-mi hike.
21	Punchbowl Lake	RT, DV	35 mi ENE by floatplane or boat + $\frac{5}{8}$ -mi trail hike.
22	Wilson Lake	CT, DV, KO	42 mi SE by floatplane only.
23	Ella Lake	CT, DV, KC	25 mi SE by plane or boat and trail.
24	Checats Lake	CT, SH, DV	32 mi E by plane or boat and trail.
25	Winstanley Lakes	CT, DV	32 mi SE by floatplane or boat + 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -mi hike.
26	Mahoney Lake	SH, CT, RS, DV, CS, SS, RT	15 mi SE of Ketchikan by floatplane.
27	Fish Creek (Thorne Arm)	CT, DV, SH, PS, RS, KO, RT	20 mi SE by floatplane or boat + 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - to 3-mi hike (area includes Basin and Big lakes).
28	Bostwick Creek and lakes	CT, DV, SS, PS, SH, RS, RT	10 mi SW of Ketchikan by floatplane or boat.
29	Bakewell Lake	CT, KO, DV, SH, SS, RS, RT	28 mi SE by plane or boat + $\frac{1}{2}$ -mi hike.
30	Badger Lake	CT, KO	27 mi SE of Ketchikan by plane.
31	Hugh Smith Lake	CT, DV, SH, RS, SS, PS, CS, RT	40 mi SE by floatplane or boat with a short walk.
32	Humpback Lake	CT, DV, KO	42 mi SE by floatplane or boat + 3-mi hike.
33	Hidden Inlet	CT, DV	50 mi SE by floatplane or boat + 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -mi hike.
34	Nakat Lake	SS, PS, CT, SH, RS, CS, DV, RT	46 mi SW by floatplane or boat + 1-mi hike.

MAP 7. Remote lake and stream fishing locations in the *Ketchikan* area



◆ KING SALMON FISHING IN FRESH WATER IS CLOSED UNLESS OPENED BY EMERGENCY ORDER!

Catch-and-release Fishing . . .

If you've planned your trip well and have put in some time fishing, you are probably catching fish. If you don't intend to keep a fish you catch, or can't keep it because of our regulations, let it go in the manner described below. There are minimum size requirements for king salmon and cutthroat, rainbow, and steelhead trout harvested in essentially all Southeast waters, so catch-and-release fishing is a critical element in our fisheries. Proper techniques must be used, in order to keep mortality rates of released fish to a minimum:

- ❖ Do not net fish that you plan to release.
- ❖ If the fish is deeply hooked, cut the leader off as close as possible to the fish and leave the hook in.

TIP ❖ Visiting anglers often practice catch-and-release for the first few days of their fishing trip and will selectively keep fish at the end of the trip to take home. This is also a good way to insure the fish you do take with you are in the best condition when you reach home.



- ❖ If the fish is hooked in the outer parts of its mouth, use needle-nose pliers to dislodge hook. (If you know ahead of time you will be releasing the fish you catch, bend down the barbs on your hooks to facilitate removal.)
- ❖ If you plan to release a fish, keep your fish in the water. If you're fishing at a shoreline, release your fish in deeper water to prevent it from thrashing around in shallow water where it may be bruised or injured.

Sport fishing regulations, licenses, and fisheries management



Sport fishing license fees and requirements are explained in the annual *Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations Summary*, and sport fishing licenses can now be obtained on our ADF&G Sport Fish Licensing website :

➡ www.admin.adfg.state.ak.us/license

by telephone:

➡ (907) 465-2376

by mail:

➡ **ADF&G Licensing**
P. O. Box 25525
Juneau, AK 99802-55225

or from vendors throughout the state.

In general, fishing regulations are open to review and possible change by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) every three years. New regulations from BOF action take effect in spring, following the previous winter's meeting. It is the BOF who actually determines when and how the various fisheries operate and how many fish each user group may harvest. ADF&G then manages the fisheries under BOF direction, to provide maximum fishing opportunity while insuring that sufficient numbers of fish will spawn to perpetuate the run.

Also inquire at the Ketchikan Sport Fish Division office (225-2859) before angling, to see if inseason emergency orders (EO's) have been issued for the area you intend to fish—EO's do not appear in the regulations summary booklet. They are issued either because emergency situations require immediate restrictive measures, or, conversely, because it has become possible to liberalize some fishing opportunities—oriented mainly at increasing harvests of hatchery fish. Checking for inseason EO's has become especially important with regard to king salmon, since inseason bag limits and other regulations very often differ from “baseline” regulations in the summary booklet.

Sometimes, sport and commercial fishers find themselves fishing the same waters, and questions arise as to methods or numbers of fish taken by one group or the other. In areas where sport and commercial fishers share the same waters, it is to the benefit of each party to exercise consideration for one another.

There is plenty of room for both to co-exist, if a few courtesies are extended by all parties. □

Comfort and Safety . . .

Ketchikan area weather is very changeable, so boots and rain gear are a must. Short boots are fine for some areas or for use with rain gear, but hip boots and/or chest-waders are preferable for most shore-based fisheries. If you are camping, be sure to take along an abundance of rain-fly material.

Excellent populations of mosquitoes, white-sox, no-see-ums, and flies inhabit the area and can be depended upon to give you trouble if you do not have a good supply of insect repellent. Sometimes different brands of repellent are needed to deter the various types of insects. Insect-proof tents are a necessity, and head nets are needed in some areas.



Black and brown bears travel and feed along many fishing streams in the area.

They are powerful and unpredictable. Seeing one can be a memorable part of one's trip; however, bears should be avoided whenever possible. When in bear habitat: (1) make noise so as not to surprise one; (2) do not keep food stored in or near your tent; (3) keep a *very* clean camp; and (4) do *not* camp on a game trail or alongside a stream full of spawning fish. When all is said and done, common sense is your best protection.



Alaska Office of Boating Safety

Before you head out on open water, be sure you are prepared!

Your boat should be at least 14 feet and seaworthy, with full Coast Guard-required equipment. Have a small 'kicker' engine in addition to the main engine, a VHF or CB radio, marine charts, and PFDs for everyone on board.

The U.S. Coast Guard website and the Alaska Boating Safety website contain all the necessary information:



www.alaskaboatingsafety.org



www.uscgboating.org

Enjoy your trip . . . Return soon!